

Serial No. 10/781288

- 4 -

Art Unit: 2686

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for use by a station in a wireless communications environment wherein multiple channels are available for communication, and wherein the station is associated with an access point, comprising:

a receiver operable to receive ~~logic for receiving~~ Announce messages from access points, the Announce messages being indicative of indicating the access point points' presence and protocol capability ~~to the station~~;

circuitry operable to periodically attempt to select at least one access point from which an Announce message was received, the selection based at least in-part on an indication that the selected access point will provide better service than the access point with which the station is currently associated;

a transmitter operable to send ~~logic for sending~~ Bid messages to ~~an~~ the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point; and

circuitry operable in response to receiving an Accept message from the selected access point to reconfigure the station to communicate via the selected access point ~~in response to the Bid message~~, the Accept message indicating that the access point will allow the station to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

Serial No. 10/781288

- 5 -

Art Unit: 2686

circuitry operable to generate logic for sending a registration request message for transmission to the selected access point to indicate that the station desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the selected access point using a particular protocol;

circuitry operable to receive and process logic for receiving a registration acknowledge message from the selected access point in response to the Registration Request message, the registration acknowledge message indicating that the selected access point understands that the station will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the particular protocol.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the selection circuitry is operable to select a Bid message is sent by the station to the access point if the station ascertains that the access point is likely to provide the highest data rate better wireless communications performance than another access point through which the station is currently communicating.